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Utah's Nonpoint-Source Water-Quality Newsletter

March/April 2001

Northern Utah Hurting for Water

Snowpack numbers look better in south

The further south you go in Utah right now the better the snowpack. Those were the words of the state's chief expert in snowpack and corresponding summer stream flow.

The Bear River and Provo River watersheds are each currently below 60 percent of the April 1st. That means snowfall in March would need to be nearly 300 percent of normal to bring those watersheds up to average. The Provo River watershed is also seriously below normal in precipitation for the water year.

In Southern Utah the story is much different. Normal precipitation for March will put the Sevier watershed and the Southeast corner of the state at or above normal. Meanwhile, the Escalante and Virgin drainages don't need any precipitation to end the season with normal snowpack.

Snowpack doesn't always equal stream flow

The only times summer stream flows exceed predictions based on April 1st snowpack are when the spring and summer months are extremely wet. This happens rarely. On the other hand, there are several reasons why actual stream flow can fall short of predictions based on snowpack. Wind, evaporation and soil moisture can all impact the relationship between snowpack and stream flow.

In 2000, stream flow predictions were very far off.

"To put it in the most politically correct terms possible," said Julander, "the forecast last year stunk."

According to Julander soil moisture was the biggest factor in the misprediction.

The summer and fall of 1999 were very dry. The soil was dry. During the snowmelt of 2000

Manure Management Measure Passes Utah Legislature

The Utah State Legislature recently passed a measure to fund projects for animal feeding operations. Senate Bill 66, as amended, provides a onetime allocation of \$400,000 to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Utah Soil Conservation Commission to provide grants to farmers and ranchers with animal feeding operations. A committee is being formed this spring to write rules and policies for administering the money. Some of the decisions that the committee is likely to wrestle with include determining

whether to make a few larger grants or several smaller allocations. The committee will also consider whether to focus on priority watershed areas first like federal sources of funds are required to do.

The money can be used for a variety of activities including:

- Developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan,
- Runoff control facilities
- Concrete manure structures
- Manure lagoons
- Fencing
- Filter and buffer strips
- Relocation of feed yard or

dairy operations when necessary.

"This was a very generous and great recognition of an important need by the legislature," said Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food.

Peterson said that this state-funded program gives farmers and ranchers more flexibility in paying for solutions.

"A lot of these solutions will require engineering and technical assistance that goes beyond our [UDAF's] ability and resources," Peterson added. He said that other technical agencies are in the same place. They don't have enough technical staff to write every plan and design every structure. According to Peterson, a portion of the money granted each farmer or rancher could be used to hire consultants to fulfill some of the technical advisory needs.

While Peterson acknowledged that \$400,000 is a lot of money, he believes that it is only a small portion of the total financial assistance Utah's livestock operators will need to fully address the problem of water quality and manure management.



Concrete structures such as this one are sometimes necessary to control polluted runoff. On the downside, this and other

improvements to animal feeding operations are often expensive. Grants and loans can be very helpful.

significantly more moisture was retained by the dry soil. Based on the snowpack as of April 1st 2000, stream flows would have been around 100 percent of normal. Because of the dry soil stream flows in some Northern Utah rivers were as low as 40 percent of normal.

According to Julander, there is more moisture in the soil in most

watersheds than at this time last year. Of course the larger problem this year is that there isn't enough snowpack.

While forecaster can guess that stream flows will be lower than snowpack because of a dry summer and fall the proceeding year, it is very difficult to predict how much less flows will be without soil moisture measurement instruments. However, at about \$6,000

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Sierra Club Files Legacy Highway Law Suit

The Sierra Club filed suit seeking to block construction of the Legacy Highway in Davis County on the grounds that it violates the federal Clean Air Act and is not the least-damaging alternative to traffic congestion in the Interstate 15 corridor north of Salt Lake City.

By filing in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City against federal highway and environmental agencies, the environmental group brought the second legal action to stop the 14-mile freeway since the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed off on it in January. More lawsuits are expected over the four-lane road, which would cross 114 acres of wetlands between Farmington and Salt Lake City.

"Building your way out of congestion has proven a failure time and time again," said Marc Heilesen, the Sierra Club officer. "Better transit is needed so we have cleaner air for our children."

Physicians for Clean Air, which Heilesen said plans a lawsuit of its own, provided a written statement from Richard Kenner, director of the University of Utah's Pulmonary Function Lab.

"There is ample data from Utah, the rest of the United States and the rest of the world as well that shows a significant association between poor air quality and an increase in mortality and morbidity," Kenner said. "A further decrease in air quality from our overzealous worship of the automobile and [sport-utility vehicle] will have other economic effects. The state and/or EPA will force our industries to make extensive and expensive modifications or even close them down."

The Sierra Club's lawsuit, filed by Land and Water Fund of the Rockies attorney Joro Walker, targets the transportation-planning Wasatch Front Regional Council's traffic modeling and pollution projections and says federal approval of those projections and the highway ensures the Wasatch Front will violate pollution standards in the future. It seeks reversal of the approval and a new environmental study by an impar-

tial party.

Wasatch Front counties already periodically violate federal standards for particle, ozone and organic pollutants generated by vehicles, the lawsuit states. "Several types of air pollution seriously threaten human health and the environment in the Wasatch Front region. Temperature inversions occur regularly during winter months, trapping stagnant air near the surface and concentrating pollutants."

The Sierra Club also asserts the agencies violated the National Environmental Policy Act by not seriously considering less-damaging alternatives. "Of a particular egregious nature was the [environmental study's] complete failure to consider a realistic potential contribution of mass transit to meet travel demand."

State and federal officials reviewing the proposed freeway said both the increased traffic capacity and new transit options would be needed to handle the 2020 commute, and Gov. Mike Leavitt has said he is confident the suits will be scuttled quickly. Construction is set to begin this spring with completion expected by fall 2004.

"[Computer modeling] does show that we have air-quality conformity on the long-range plan, which includes Legacy Highway," said Byron Parker, Legacy project leader for the Utah Department of Transportation. "The federal agencies have given their approval for both Legacy and the air-quality stuff. We feel like we've met our environmental responsibilities."

No Utah agencies or officials are named as defendants in the Sierra Club's filing. Ditto for an earlier anti-Legacy suit filed by Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, along with a group of Davis County commuters, the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, Future Moves Coalition, Disabled Rights Action Committee and Great Salt Lake Audubon Society.

Ground Water Clean-up Pact Signed

State and federal environmental officials have agreed on how to turn mining-fouled groundwater into drinking water enough for 80,000 Utahns.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality signed a contract recently outlining what Kennecott Utah Copper needs to do to finish cleaning up an 160-square-mile aquifer beneath South Jordan.

The deal is a milestone in a 10-year, \$200 million effort to solve an industrial contamination problem that originated decades before modern environmental protection laws and the struggles over enforcing them.

DEQ director Dianne Nielson said the flexibility of the company and the state and federal agencies made it possible for most of the money to be spent on the cleanup rather than legal fees.

"It's saving everyone big attorney fees," agreed Eva Hoffman, an EPA project leader who was key to brokering the agreement. "And when you are talking about a desert environment, the water is what really counts."

Kennecott officials also applauded the contract-signing, even though the company still has about

five years and tens of millions of dollars more work ahead.

Hoffman said the Kennecott cleanup is likely to be a model for similar agreements in the future.

The mining company set out more than a decade ago to stop mining ores from seeping into groundwater from its Bingham Canyon operations.

The contamination may have begun as early as 1863, when the enormous copper mine opened. Ecologists found the precious groundwater, nestled 300 to 1,000 feet below ground, contained sulfates, an acidic content comparable to Coca-Cola, and such heavy metals as arsenic and cadmium. The mining company and farmers use the water, but not for drinking.

In earlier stages of the EPA-DEQ collaboration, the company identified the three polluting sources and designed ways to stop the leaching. This final phase involves the completion of two water treatment facilities that will filter contaminants from the tainted aquifer.

By working closely with the two government agencies, Kennecott was able to avoid being listed as a federal Superfund cleanup site.

Utah Watershed Review

Editor**Jack Wilbur**

Editorial Review

**Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food,
Don A. Ostler, director, Utah Division of Water Quality,
George Hopkin, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food,
Mike Reichert, Utah Division of Water Quality
Roy Gunnell, Utah Division of Water Quality**

If you would like to request an additional copy, make a comment or suggest a story or watershed focus idea, please call **Jack Wilbur** (801) 538-7098. Or write:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 North Redwood Road
Box 146500
SLC, UT 84114-6500
E-mail: jwilbur@state.ut.us

Water Quality News From Around the U.S.

Bush Blocks Executive Orders

In one of his first official acts after being sworn in as president on January 20, 2001, President Bush signed an order to block or rescind a slough of last minute executive orders and regulations that were rushed through by the outgoing Clinton administration.

The executive orders and regulations passed by Clinton deal with a variety of issues including the environment.

Among the actions targeted are environmental restrictions on runoff from animal feeding operations. EPA also recently issued other regulations to reduce the small traces of arsenic in drinking water by 80- percent, to cut back pollution in the Mississippi River and to expand residents' right to know about emissions in their area.

Other natural resource-related measures passed by the outgoing administration and halted by the new president include regulations protecting 60 million acres of national forests from logging and road-building.

National NPS Information Conference Scheduled for Chicago in May

In 1996 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Illinois EPA hosted a first-ever national conference specifically for professionals conducting information and education (I&E) programs for nonpoint source pollution (NPS).

Now, nearly five years later, the agencies have teamed up again, along with the Chicago Botanic Garden, for a second national NPS I&E conference.

The meeting is scheduled for May 15-17, 2001 at the Chicago Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago, IL.

"In response to this need for better public appreciation and understanding of nonpoint source water pollution, this 2nd national conference on NPS pollution information and education programs will provide a unique opportunity--on a national scale--to learn and share ideas on NPS

Whitman's Environmental Record Mixed in New Jersey

Newly confirmed EPA administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, New Jersey, has placed updating regulations affecting wastewater treatment facilities as a top priority.

News that combined sewer overflow (CSOs) regulations are a top priority is going over very well with officials at the Water Environment Federation (WEF), based in Alexandria, VA.

"Reinvesting in water infrastructure is one of WEF's priorities and we're pleased to hear that it is also one of Whitman's as well," said Jim Sullivan, WEF's manager of legislative affairs. "Last year Congress passed a bill authorizing \$1.5 million in grants for CSOs and wet weather projects. We hope [Whitman] would implement those programs."

Whitman's policy priorities were discussed during her recent Senate confirmation hearings. During the hearings Whitman was

also asked about regulations that protect wetlands and watershed areas.

"Mother Nature does a much better job protecting the watershed than any filtration plant," Whitman said. She did add however, "we can't stop protecting our wetlands because they do a whole lot better job of protecting our drinking water than water filtration plants."

One of the strongest criticisms about Whitman's management style comes from the environmental community and some Senators regarding the self-policing enforcement policies she implemented as governor of New Jersey.

Whitman told the committee it has been her experience that "people will clean up better and faster if they are not threatened with sanctions." She did say, however, that she is not afraid to impose sanctions when needed.

"We need to reach out to those who are on the receiving end of the regulations to allow them to be a part of the solution," Whitman said.

Budweiser's Cows Banned From Sierra Nevada

The party's over for the world's largest beer maker -- the grazing party that is.

After more than a decade of environmental battles over one of California's most fragile mountain wilderness areas, U.S. Forest Service officials have taken the unusual step of ordering hundreds of cattle owned by Anheuser-Busch to be banned from publicly owned Sierra Nevada Meadows near Mount Whitney to stop ecological damage.

The Forest Service almost never cancels grazing permits outright.

In this case, however, the agency concluded that for 15 years, "Budweiser cows" have trampled streams, denuded meadows and threatened California's state fish, the California Golden Trout, with extinction while taxpayers were losing about

Idaho Signs AFO Agreement

BOISE, ID -- Idaho state agency officials, federal regulators and Idaho's cattle industry have signed a landmark agreement designed to assure industry compliance with water quality laws to protect the environment.

The interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Cattle Association is being hailed as a major step forward in locally designed and implemented water Quality Protection.

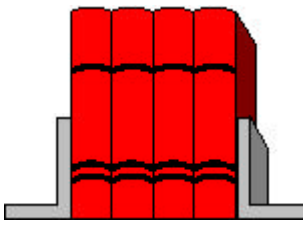
It is designed to reduce redundant inspection and compliance monitoring, increase the frequency of beef cattle animal feeding operation inspections and provide a sound inspection and compliance program. The agreement is also structured to allow producers to meet the waste management challenge in a proactive, economically achievable way.

\$75,000 a year in public subsidies to keep animals there.

"We Feel that this decision will go a long way to help the area recover," said District Ranger Lucinda McKee, of the Inyo National Forest, who issued the ruling in February. McKee canceled Busch's permit to rent nearly 100,000 acres of national forest from July to October each year.

Scientists say golden trout are suffering a food shortage because cattle eat streamside plants and trample stream banks, driving away insects the fish eat.

As a result, the trout are about four inches long -- half the healthy size -- and at risk for population crashes. Fishery biologists believe that the habitat will recover and that the are will really see some changes within 10 years.



Learning About Our Water

Storm Water Activity Guide Great for Kids

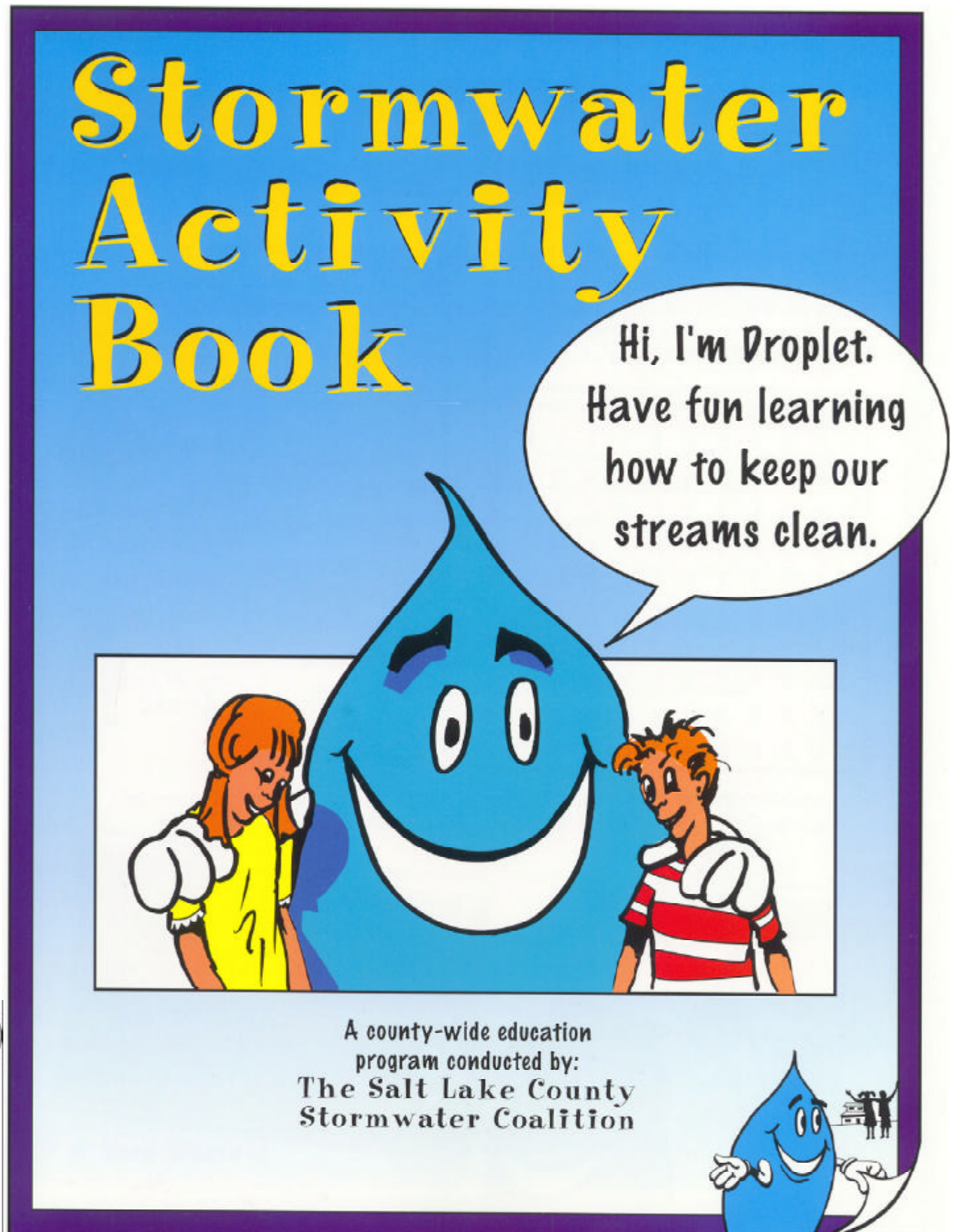
A new activity book available in Salt Lake County makes learning about polluted runoff fun for young people.

The "Stormwater Activity Book" is a publication of the Salt Lake County Storm Water Coalition. The publication teaches elementary school aged children about personal household-related causes of water pollution.

The publication uses a cartoon character named Droplet. Droplet is a young water drop that was developed and animated for the coalition's six minute video and the latest public service announcement on television. Droplet uses various types of puzzles and quizzes to teach young people about the things around their homes that can cause stormwater pollution.

While this activity book is fun and entertaining for elementary school aged children, it is also filled with useful information that can augment a water pollution unit in class.

For more information visit the coalition on line at www.stormwatercoalition.org or call Terry Way, Salt Lake County Engineering, at 801 468-2599



The Stormwater Activity Book is part of a county-wide stormwater education program that is part of Salt Lake City/County's stormwater permit through EPA. The permit is required by the Clean Water Act. Initially, only larger cities and municipalities were required to enact a stormwater control program. Now that EPA has initiated Phase II of the stormwater control program, smaller municipalities will also have to develop and implement a stormwater control plan. An important part of each city's plan is the public outreach and involvement component. This publication and others are part of that outreach effort. Teachers wanting copies of the publication can contact Terry Way, Salt Lake County Engineering Division, 468-2599.

Community-based



Watershed Activities



Agencies, Community Groups Meet, Discuss Volunteer Monitoring

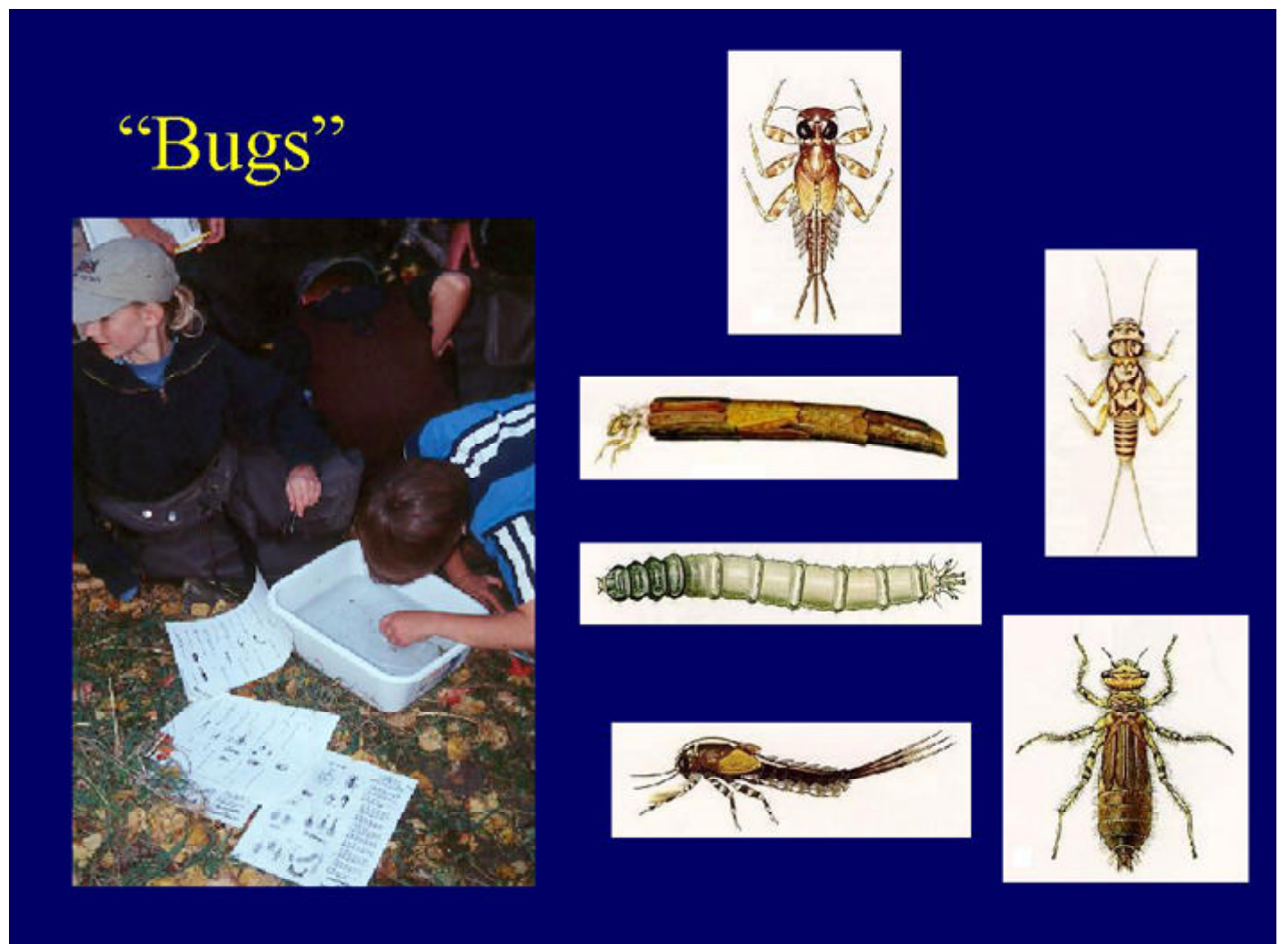
Agency and community group representatives met recently to discuss the future of volunteer resource monitoring in Utah.

Currently, several agencies and community groups conduct some form of volunteer water quality monitoring. However, there is currently little coordination or consistency of protocols among groups in Utah.

Participants in the meeting, including Richard Denton, the director of Utah's official water quality monitoring program, agreed to continue meeting and working toward common standards and protocols.

"While most of these volunteer efforts are meant to be educational and do not meet the state's quality control standards, at least one citizens group is interested in certifying with the state to take official water samples," said Jack Wilbur, co-director of Utah's Adopt-A-Waterbody program.

Nancy Mesner, an associate professor in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University (USU) hopes to identify the



The biological monitoring, collecting aquatic insects from the river bottom, is the favorite part of the monitoring process for many of the volunteers. Evaluation sheets help volunteer monitors identify the insects and determine water quality.



Utah State University publishes a comprehensive guide to volunteer water quality monitoring. For more information, check the web site listed in the above graphic.

groups involved in volunteer monitoring. Mesner and colleagues at USU are currently involved in two pilot programs. The Utah Stream Team guide book is being used on a smaller scale project by one middle school along a small tributary to the Little Bear River. A larger scale project is taking place along the main stem of the Bear River as it passes through three states. More than a dozen schools are involved in that effort.

Other programs include the wetlands monitoring program at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the Stream Team River restoration and monitoring program at the DWR and the

Adopt A Waterbody program managed by the Utah Division of Water Quality and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

While these programs focus on volunteer monitoring to varying degrees, they all have at least some common goals and desired outcomes. Mesner says she hopes to establish an ongoing dialogue among agencies and private groups. Eventually she hopes that the web site she and others at USU have developed will be used by groups throughout the state to post their monitoring data.

Special Feature:

Organic Farming in Utah: A Growing Niche Market

By Jack Wilbur
Public Information Specialist
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Farming and food production have gone through many changes in the past century. During the next several years the ways our food is grown, harvested and delivered may continue to change. One of these changes is expected to be an increase in production and distribution of organically grown food.

Organic food does not contain manmade chemicals, growth hormones, or genetically modified properties or components. Because of these factors, crop yields are usually smaller and the cost of production is usually greater.

Organic farming is one area of farming that is still considered by many to be niche farming. Yet, as people become more health conscious and concerned about what is in their food, organically-produced food is becoming more popular. The United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that organically produced food accounts for about two percent of food retailed globally. According to an industry publication, the *Natural Foods Merchandiser* (NFM), estimated total organic sales through all marketing outlets rose steadily from about \$1 billion in 1990 to \$3.5 billion in 1996, the last year for which statistics are available.

Roadside stands and corner markets

The largest marketing outlet for organic food was natural food stores, which captured about two-thirds of total organic sales during the first half of the 1990s, followed by direct markets, conventional grocery stores and exports. More recent industry data on organic sales through natural food stores showed sales growth continuing at 20-25 percent annually and reaching \$4 billion in 1999.

One of the most striking differences between conventional and organic food marketing is the use of direct markets. These direct

markets include farmers' markets, farm stands, roadside stands, farm subscriptions, and mail-order sales. Cornell University recently estimated that only about 1.6 percent of U.S. fresh produce sales occur directly between producers and consumers. For organic sales, however, direct markets accounted for between 17 and 22 percent of total organic sales during 1990-96, as tracked by NFM surveys. USDA surveys of organic fruit and organic vegetable growers indicate an even higher percentage using direct marketing as their primary sales outlet.

The number of farmers' markets in the U.S. has grown steadily from 1,755 markets in 1994, to 2,863 in 2000. In Salt Lake City, for example, organic food is available at many of the booths spread throughout Pioneer Park on weekends during the growing season.

Organic farming standards

Organic farming means using methods in tune with nature, enhancing the local ecosystem, without adding synthetic substances such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides. As of 1997 there were 5,021 organic farmers certified by 40 state and private certifiers in 1997, according to one national organization. "Certified Organic" means that agricultural products have been grown and processed according to the specific standards of various state and private certification organizations.

Private organizations, mostly non-profits, began developing certification standards in the early 1970s as a way to support organic farming and thwart consumer fraud. Some states began offering organic certification services in the late 1980s for similar reasons. There are currently about 15 state certification programs. Utah just recently passed organic farming certification rules.

Organic farming and mainstream agriculture

While much of the organic food produced in Utah and the rest of the country is produced by independent farmers with smaller operations and sold via direct markets and in natural food stores, agricultural industry and commodity groups are getting into the act.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) recently received a grant from USDA to market organically-grown lamb. Utah is the sixth largest producer of sheep in the country.

UDAF Marketing Director, Randy Parker says the lamb will soon be offered to chefs at various hotels and gourmet restaurants in the Salt Lake City area.

"Lamb is a popular gourmet menu item throughout the world, and we are happy to bring Utah's high quality lamb to some of the better known dining establishments along the Wasatch Front," Parker said. "This program is also intended to offset some of the economic damage done to Utah Sheep ranchers by the importation of artificially low-priced lamb."

Utah's dairy and egg farming organizations may also start promoting organic farming programs during the next few months.

"I think it's a doable thing," said Gregory Radmall, Utah Dairymen's Association. But Radmall says that it will be a while before Utah's dairy industry is involved in organic milk on any kind of a large scale.

Cost vs. benefit

When deciding whether to buy organically produced food, consumers must decide whether the higher cost of organic food is worth the price.

"Our prices are slightly higher than conventional supermarkets," explained Amy Christensen, public relations representative, Wild Oats Market, Salt Lake City. Christensen said that the prices are higher because the food comes from independent farmers and marketers rather than conventional subsidized farm operations. As demand increases and conven-

tional farmers play a larger role in the organic food market, prices should come more in line.

Christensen and other proponents of organic farming suggest that organic farming is more environmentally friendly. According to a recent United Nations FAO report, "The value of organic farming is the prevention of the unknown problems that come with intensification. Increased use of agricultural chemicals, hormones in animals, and genetically modified crops pose potential health and environmental problems. On the other hand, rapidly growing world populations are putting pressure on farmers to produce more and more food. Mass farming methods seem to be a more viable option for feeding the masses, according to a U.N. FAO report.

"Increasing organic farm production at a national level does not mean you can distribute to everyone," said Nadia Scialabba, FAO environment officer and organic farming expert.

So, for the next few years at least, experts predict that organic food will continue to be a choice for those who can afford it rather than a part of everyone's daily diet.

Coming in the May/June Issue:

Larry Lewis Examines the state of growth in Utah and what the Quality Growth Commission and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are doing about it.

Water shortages are possible in Northern Utah this summer. Jack Wilbur looks at what's being done to prevent serious problems.

Pacificorp prepares to pay Northern Utah and Southern Idaho farmers not to farm in order to be able to sell additional power to California.

The Utah Association of Conservation Districts is supporting curbless low impact road designs for developing areas. The design reduces the amount of stormwater runoff and retains a more rural feel.

Utah Envirothon Set for May

It's not too late to register for the 2001 Utah Envirothon. This year's Envirothon, an environmental competition for high school students, will be held May 11-12 in Draper.

Teams from across the state will compete against each other for a trip to the Canon Envirothon in Jackson, Miss. Even if your local high school has never participated in the past, organizers say they should plan to attend just for the fun of it. The Utah Envirothon provides an enjoyable, outdoor experience with hands-on learning.

The Envirothon is a natural resource competition for high school students in grades 9-12. As a team, students are tested on their knowledge of natural resources including soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. This year's current topic is urban nonpoint source pollution.

Students will be tested on their knowledge of how everyday activities around the house and yard can cause polluted water run off and what can be done to control or prevent polluted run off.

The Utah Envirothon is sponsored by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Provo Office Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Department of Water Quality, Utah Soil Conservation Commission, Campbell Scientific, Utah State University Extension/EPA, Utah State University College of Natural Resources, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Utah Department of Agriculture & Food, Canon USA, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and others.

For more information on the Utah Envirothon or to receive an advisor's handbook, contact Jennifer Hines, state coordinator, (435) 753-6029, ext. 36 or jennifer-hines@ut.nacdnet.org.

Conservation Field Day to Look at Dairy Industry

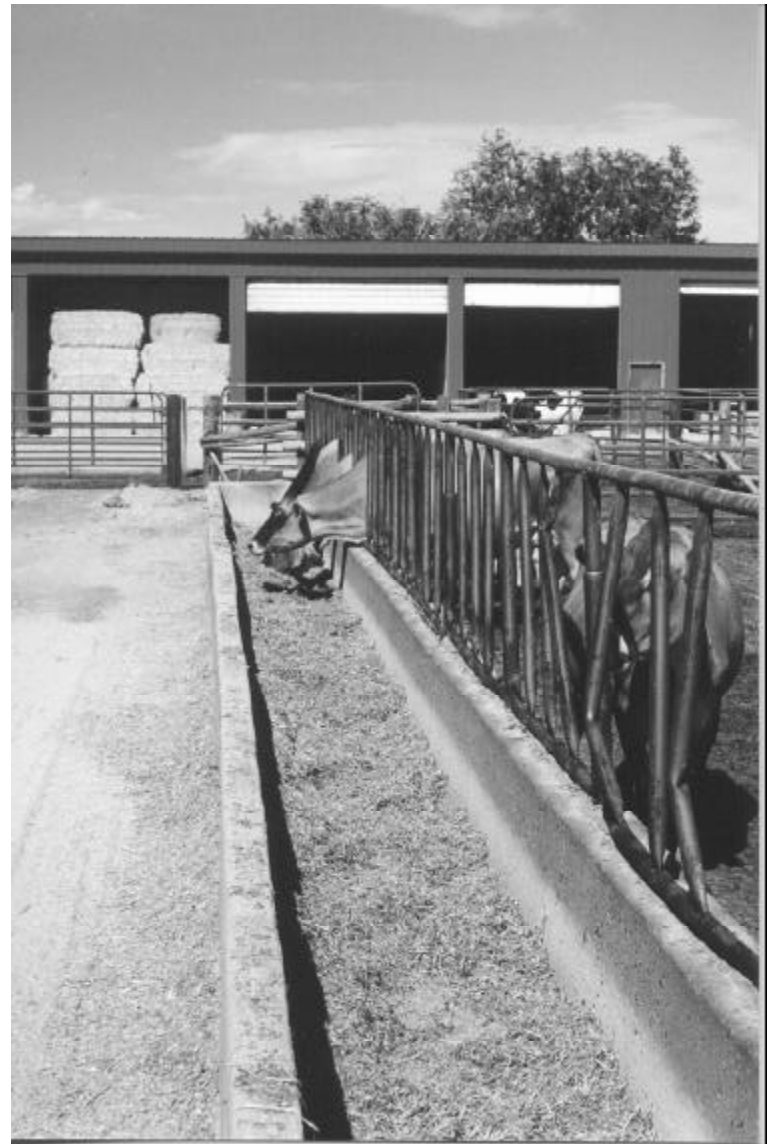
The 17th Annual Conservation Field Day, the 'Got Cow' Tour, will be held May 18 in Cache County.

This year's tour will touch on all aspects of the dairy industry in Northern Utah. Participants will learn about the "inputs" to the cow with a visit to a high-tech alfalfa field. They'll learn about the cow herself at the Black & White Days Western Spring National Holstein Show in Richmond.

The next stop on the tour will feature the "outputs" of the cow including milk and cheese. Finally, participants will investigate the other "outputs" featuring information on manure management, water quality improvement projects and composting.

The Utah Soil Conservation Commission Annual Field Day is sponsored by the five soil conservation districts in Zone 1, which includes Cache, Rich and Box Elder County. Registration forms will be mailed out April 1.

For more information, call Penny Trinca, Utah Association of Conservation Districts Zone 1 coordinator, at (435) 753-6029.



The "Got Cow" Tour sponsored by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts will focus on the local dairy industry from input to output. Stops will include an alfalfa field, a dairy to look at the milking process and manure management issues, a small processing and bottling facility and a retail outlet.

Small Farmers May Be Affected by Clean Water Act

Animal Waste Too Expensive for Some

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This story has been reprinted with permission from the Ogden Standard Examiner.

Thursday, February 15, 2001
By TANNA BARRY

Standard-Examiner staff

HOOPER -- Federal regulations meant to preserve clean water may force many small farmers here out of business by 2006.

The Clean Water Act requires landowners to ensure that animal waste doesn't reach waterways. It also requires landowners to fence off waterways from animals.

While this act is meant to help improve water quality, the cost to get farms up to regulations is too expensive for most smaller farms to handle.

"The loss is going to be quite high," said Hooper Mayor Durk Bailey. "A lot of the farms will go out of business."

Bailey estimates more than 10 percent of the community is involved with farming, but most only do it on a part-time basis. Those farmers won't have the money to meet the standards.

"It will have a great effect on our community," Bailey said.

John Beus, who has owned a cattle farm for 46 years, said he hadn't heard about this regulation, but it would still affect his ranch. He has about 200 cattle that drink from the Hooper Slough, which is on his property.

"It would be difficult, because we have nearly a mile of waterway," Beus said. "It would be a big problem."

Farmers or ranchers who have approval to let their animals to drink from waterways will still be able to do so. They will still need to put up the exclusion fences, but the fences can have a break to let cattle through for a drink.

"You can't fight against clean water. We all want it," said George Burbidge, who works on a non-point advisory committee and with storm water management for Weber County.

Burbidge acknowledges that the regulation will push out the smaller farmers.

"The smaller farms are really

struggling," Burbidge said.

The Clean Water Act deals with many areas besides farms, but the part of affecting rural areas deals with non-point source pollution -- contamination from 1F caused by animals.

"(The law) means that farmers will have to control the waste that comes off their land," Burbidge said.

Farmers will control the animal waste by disposing it in bunkers -- lined pits in the ground. Burbidge said the minimal cost for such a bunker is \$60,000, and as much \$250,000.

Also, there is the issue of fencing off waterways so animals can't reach them. Bailey said there are many streams running through and near farms in Hooper and it would be expensive to fence all of them.

Because of this, Burbidge said, many small farmers are simply delaying action. They are waiting until 2006 when they have to be in compliance, to call it quits.

"A lot of small farmers can't get up to standards," he said.

Although the legislation comes through the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Utah has a permit to regulate it.

You can reach reporter Tanna Barry at 625-4226 or tbarry@standard.net.

Utah NPS Conference Update Call for Papers Released

"Jump Start Your Watershed: Working together for Clean Water" is the theme of the 11th annual Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference, set for September 25-26, 2001 in St. George, Utah.

This year's conference will focus on the watershed approach from the local perspective. What are the successes, failures and needs of local watershed planning committees and steering committees? How do some of the bigger national and regional issues related to NPS pollution impact some of these local-level groups.

As part of the conference, the NPS conference planning committee is inviting abstracts for possible presentation during the two-day event.

Some of the general categories the planning committee want to see addressed include, sponsoring and developing watershed steering and technical committees, academic research related to NPS pollution sources or controls,

demonstration projects, watershed efforts, and information and education efforts.

While the conference usually focuses on agricultural NPS issues to a large degree, presentations related to other NPS sources such as mining, forestry, urban and recreation are also encouraged.

Some suggested topics include:

- AFO/CAFO projects
- Stream rehabilitation
- Grazing management
- Water irrigation management
- On-site wastewater systems
- Volunteer/community based programs.

Presentations will be 20 minutes, with an additional ten minutes for questions and preparing for the next speaker.

Abstracts should be 200 - 300 words single-spaced. Abstracts are due May 25, 2001.

For more information or a copy of the Call for Papers, call Jack Wilbur at 801 538-7098.

Volunteers, County to Team Up to Clean Up Hazardous Household Waste



Last year's PeaceTrees Community Day Out included activities for all ages and a small, unofficial recycling drive.

Youth volunteers involved in this year's PeaceTrees Salt Lake City project and summer camp will team up with Salt Lake County household hazardous waste officials. The two groups will collect and properly dispose of potentially harmful household chemicals during a community day out July 28, 2001.

The day will begin with a household hazardous waste recycling drive at the Salt Lake Public Utilities building at 1530 S. West Temple. The event is a great way for the county to bring its recycling program to the people.

"If people have one or two items they may not feel it's worth it to come out to our permanent loca-

tions," said Bryce C. Larsen, Solid Waste Reduction Specialist, Salt Lake County.

Larsen explained that the County's hazardous waste recycling locations are adjacent to the landfills, which far away for most residents. While the temptation to dispose of paints and other hazardous waste in the trash can be great, Larsen, reminds residents that the practice is both illegal and potentially harmful to the environment. That's why the county likes to host periodic recycling drives on location.

Please look for an expanded story about the Community Day Out in our next issue, due out in early June.